

image
290
DIGITAL
EDITION

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MCFARLANE

JASON
SHAWN
ALEXANDER

SPAWN





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SPAWN CREATED BY
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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Spawn reveals his plan to the world. Every step of the way, he's been controlling the demons and angels around him who are stuck on Earth. Spawn goes and visits Marc, who he thinks is a demon. But when he gets there, Spawn realizes it's not Marc, but his girlfriend who's been taken over by a demonic force. Spawn kills her much to Marc's horror. Spawn finally debuts the army of recruits who are some of his oldest enemies: Overt-Kill, Cy-Gor, The Freak and The Curse.



A NATIONAL MANHUNT HAS ALREADY BEGUN. THE ATTACKER WHO STORMED THE PRESIDENT'S OVAL OFFICE INTERVIEW, AS YOU SAW ON THE VIDEO WE JUST SHOWED, APPEARS TO BE THE SAME MYSTERIOUS 'MASKED-MAN' THAT WAS ARRESTED IN TIMES SQUARE AND LATER MOVED TO A HIGH SECURITY COMPOUND IN VIRGINIA.

WHAT MAKES ALL OF THIS DISTURBING, BESIDES THE OBVIOUS ASSAULT ON OUR PRESIDENT, IS THE FACT THAT JUST YESTERDAY THE WHITE HOUSE EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT SAME PRISONER WAS STILL VERY MUCH IN CUSTODY. THIS ENTIRE SITUATION DEFIES ANY LOGICAL EXPLANATIONS, AS OUR NATION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WRESTLE WITH HOW THE WHITE HOUSE COULD BE SO EASILY BREACHED.

AND MORE ALARMING IS THAT BREACH CAME FROM AN UNNAMED PERSON WHO WAS, AS WE WERE TOLD BY THE PRESS SECRETARY, "LOCKED UP AND IN FULL ISOLATION". REPORTERS AND NEWS STATIONS ARE NOW IN OVER-DRIVE TRYING TO SORT THROUGH THESE DISTURBING CONTRADICTIONS WHILE TRYING TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF US ARE SAFE FROM THIS CAPED MENACE.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS MAN HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED AFTER ALL THIS TIME?



MARC?
DID YOU
HEAR WHAT I
SAID? I NEED
YOU TO STAY
FOCUSED.

I'M JUST...
TRYING TO
PROCESS. SO,
CUT ME SOME
SLACK.

THEN PROCESS.
YOU NEED TO
GET USED TO ALL THIS
BECAUSE THIS IS HOW
YOUR LIFE'S GOING TO BE
FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE.
I NEED TO TRUST
YOU CAN HANDLE IT,
OTHERWISE YOU'RE
NO USE TO ME.

GIVE HIM
ROOM, MY
PETS.

THE BIGGEST HURDLE FOR MARC
ROSEN IS THAT HE'S THE ONLY
THING 'HUMAN' STANDING IN THIS
SUB-BASEMENT. THAT'S EITHER
GOING TO BE AN ADVANTAGE FOR
HIM IN THE COMING WEEKS, OR...
IT'LL BE THE REASON HE GETS
HIMSELF KILLED.

DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
ME. YOU DO
YOUR PART. I'LL
DO MINE.

AS A TRAINED JOURNALIST HE'S
JUST TRYING TO SORT THROUGH THE
GROWING INSANITY AROUND HIM.

I'M NOT THE
BAD GUY HERE.
BUT I ALSO DON'T
HAVE THE TIME TO
EXPLAIN EVERY LAST
DETAIL AS TO WHY
ALL THIS EXISTS.
I JUST NEED
YOUR BUY-IN.

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU,
I'M IN. BECAUSE
OF WHAT THOSE
BASTARDS DID
TO SUSAN--
THEY NEED
TO PAY.

I'M
SORRY
YOU HAD
TO FIND
OUT THE
HARD
WAY.*

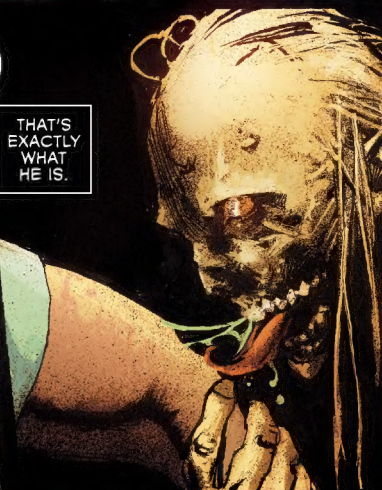
SHE
JUST ROTTED
IN FRONT OF ME.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT LOOKS LIKE?
TO SEE THE BODY
OF THE WOMAN
YOU LOVE TURNED
TO LIQUID-
ROT?

HERE'S
MY INTEL.
IT'S MOST OF
WHAT YOU ASKED
FOR, BUT I NEED
MORE SPECIFIC
DETAILS IF WE'RE
GOING TO
MAKE ANY DENTS
INTO THEIR
FINANCIAL
POWER.

MARC CATCHES
HIMSELF,
AS
SPAWN GOES
DEATHLY QUIET,
REMEMBERING
WHY AL IS DOING
ALL OF THIS IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

I'M
ALREADY
WORKING
ON THAT.

*See last issue--Todd



ELSEWHERE ON
THIS PLANET.

THE
TIME HAS
COME.

I'D HOPED
I WOULD HAVE
HAD MORE TIME
TO SET MY PLANS IN
MOTION, BUT OUR
DEAR FRIEND MR.
SIMMONS ISN'T
COOPERATING.

I KNEW HE
WOULDN'T.

WHICH IS
WHY I'VE MADE
CONTINGENCY
PLANS. SO,
THANK YOU FOR
COMING.

AND YOUR
SACRIFICE TO
THE CAUSE
WILL NOT BE
FORGOTTEN.

NOW,
PREPARE
YOURSELF...



...BECAUSE
WE ARE ABOUT
TO START
A WAR.

TA-DA!

INDIA

THE MUMBAI
BUSINESS DISTRICT.



HOW...
ARE YOU...
FEELING,
ARJUN?

WHAT?!
HOW DO YOU
KNOW MY
NAME?

PLICK

BECAUSE
I'M YOUR
FRIEND... I THINK.
SO, PLEASE DON'T
MAKE ME HURT
YOU. I ONLY NEED
YOU TO DO ME
ONE SMALL
FAVOR.

YOU NEED
TO CHANGE THE BANK
CODES TO SOME BIG
ACCOUNTS. JUST LOCK OUT
A FEW POWERFUL PEOPLE
FROM GETTING THEIR
MONEY.

ARE YOU
INSANE? I
CAN'T DO
THAT!

THE ANSWER TO
YOUR FIRST QUESTION
IS "YES, ABSOLUTELY." THE
ANSWER TO YOUR SECOND IS,
"OF COURSE YOU CAN." THAT'S
WHY I'M HERE. WE BOTH
KNOW YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE CAPABLE OF CHANGING
THOSE CODES.

THEY'LL
KILL ME IF I
DID THAT.

I'LL KILL
YOU IF
YOU DON'T.
SO, WE'RE TIED.
LET'S SEE IF I
CAN BREAK
THAT.

BEFORE
COMING HERE,
I HAD A LITTLE CHAT
WITH YOUR WIFE.
LOVELY LADY WHEN
SHE'S NOT CRYING. VERY
GENEROUS TOO. GAVE ME
THIS GIFT... IT'S FROM
YOUR WEDDING DAY,
SHE SAID.

SO,
NOW...
ABOUT
THOSE
CODES.

**NORTHERN
IRELAND.**

...AND I ASK
FORGIVENESS,
FOR BOTH ME AND MY
BUSINESS PARTNER,
JIMMY O'CONNOR.
I WISH TO WASH
AWAY MY SINS.
AMEN.

NO, MY CHILD, I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME YOUR PARTNER'S NAME. I NEED A CONFESSION FROM HIM TOO... AFTER I GET WHAT I WANT.

THE JUNGLES OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA...

WHERE A SOLDIER, NAMED DIEGO CHAMPUTI, KNEW
HOW FUTILE THIS LAST EFFORT WOULD BE, HE AND HIS
GROUP HAD BEEN HUNTING FOR SIGNS OF TRESPASSERS,
AND THEY FOUND ONE! THE CREATURE CY-GOR SEEMED
INTENT ON WANTING TO BE FOUND.



LIKE HE WANTED THEM TO
TRY AND CAPTURE HIM,
UNFORTUNATELY FOR DIEGO,
HE WAS JUST THE LAST IN
LINE TO TRY.

HAVING BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM THE SHADOWS OF AMERICA TO THIS JUNGLE, THIS GIANT CREATURE HAD A 'TARGET' HE WAS AFTER, AND A MISSION TO FULFILL. ONE THAT WOULD CONTINUE THE DISRUPTION SPAWN HAD ALREADY BEGUN.

HE CARVES HIS WAY THROUGH THICK GREEN FOLIAGE, LANDING NEAR THE BASE OF THIS HIDDEN FACILITY THAT THE ENEMY HOPED WOULD NEVER BE DISCOVERED.



THEN HE SENDS OUT HIS SIGNAL.

WHICH IS MET BY A SILENT ANSWER.



THOUGH NEITHER OF THESE CREATURES FULLY UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE TOWERING STRUCTURE BEFORE THEM, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY. SPAWN JUST NEEDS THEM TO DO WHAT THEY WERE BOTH BUILT TO DO...

...TO USE THE AUGMENTED MACHINERY, NOW PART OF THEIR SKELETAL FRAMEWORK, AS HUMANOID BULLDOZERS!




SNAP

THOOM


AND IF SPAWN IS CORRECT,
IT WILL CAUSE THE ENTIRE
INFRASTRUCTURE AND GRID
FOR THIS COMPLEX TO COME
TO A SCREECHING HALT.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT
WILL CAUSE A MUCH-NEEDED
DISTRACTION. ALL THEY NEED
TO DO NOW... IS WAIT!

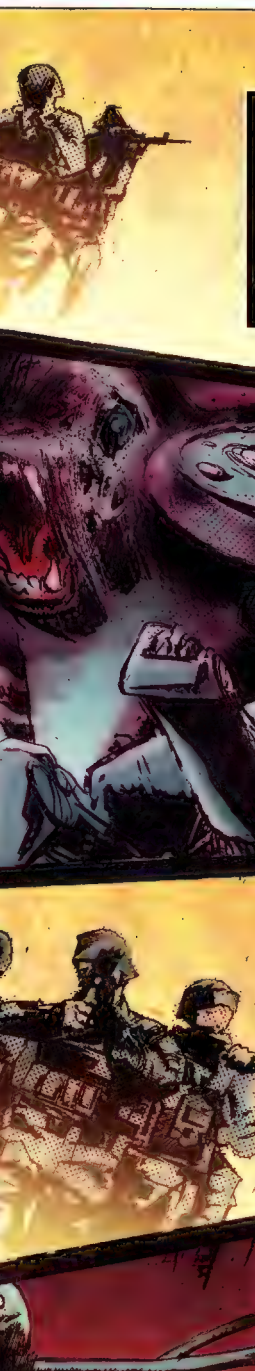




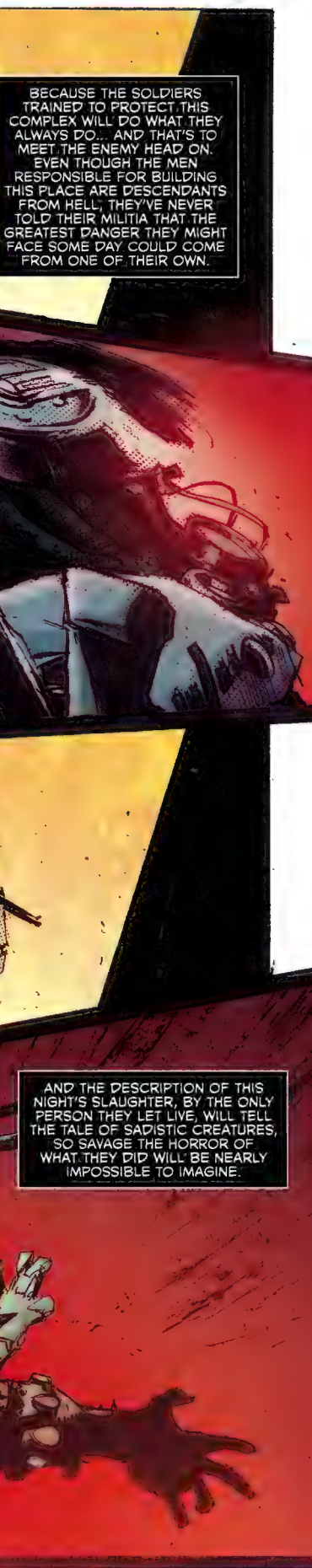
BECAUSE THE SOLDIERS
TRAINED TO PROTECT THIS
COMPLEX WILL DO WHAT THEY
ALWAYS DO... AND THAT'S TO
MEET THE ENEMY HEAD ON.
EVEN THOUGH THE MEN
RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING
THIS PLACE ARE DESCENDANTS
FROM HELL, THEY'VE NEVER
TOLD THEIR MILITIA THAT THE
GREATEST DANGER THEY MIGHT
FACE SOME DAY COULD COME
FROM ONE OF THEIR OWN.



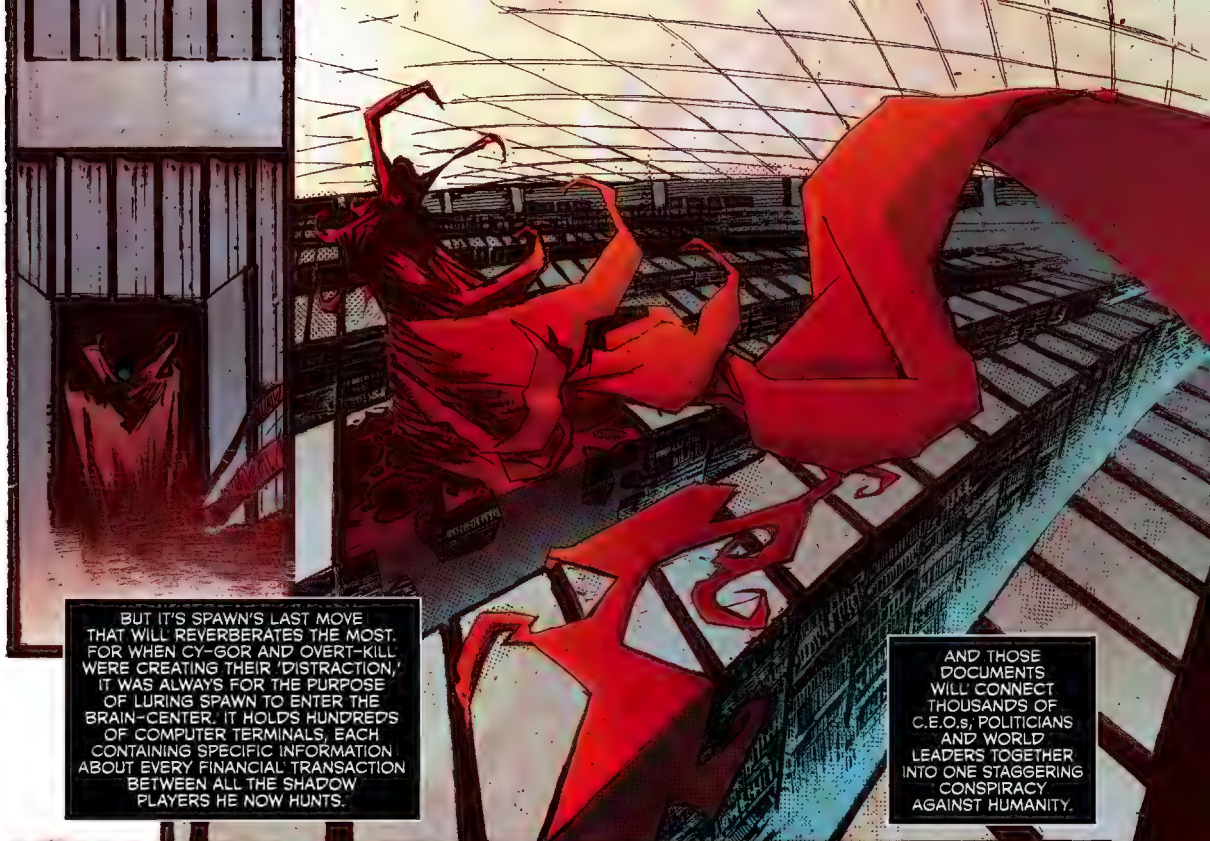
THOUGH SPAWN ISN'T AT THE
FOREFRONT OF THE SOLDIER'S
KNEEJERK REACTION, HIS
PRESENCE WILL BE FELT IN OTHER
WAYS. **FIRST:** BY KNOCKING OUT
THE ENTIRE TECHNOLOGICAL DATA
CLOUD THAT HIS ENEMIES HAVE
BUILT. SPAWN KNOWS IT WILL TAKE
A YEAR TO REBUILD THIS
TYPE OF FACILITY ELSEWHERE.



SECOND: RECRUITING
NEW TRAINEES WILL
BECOME MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT WHEN WORD
SEEPS OUT THAT NOT A
SINGLE BODY IN THE
ENTIRE BATTALION WAS
FOUND FULLY INTACT.

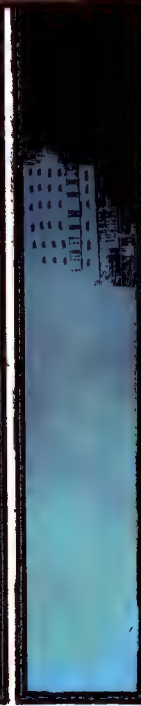
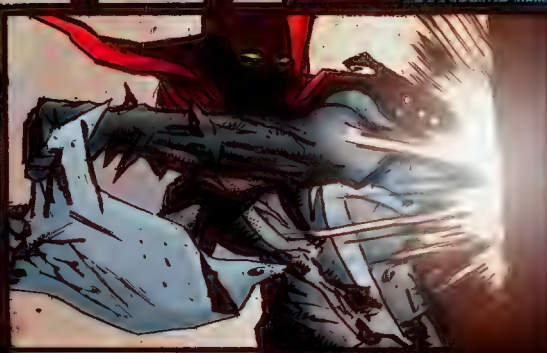


AND THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS
NIGHT'S SLAUGHTER, BY THE ONLY
PERSON THEY LET LIVE, WILL TELL
THE TALE OF SADISTIC CREATURES,
SO SAVAGE THE HORROR OF
WHAT THEY DID WILL BE NEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO IMAGINE.



BUT IT'S SPAWN'S LAST MOVE THAT WILL REVERBERATE THE MOST. FOR WHEN CY-GOR AND OVERT-KILL WERE CREATING THEIR 'DISTRACTION,' IT WAS ALWAYS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LURING SPAWN TO ENTER THE BRAIN-CENTER. IT HOLDS HUNDREDS OF COMPUTER TERMINALS, EACH CONTAINING SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT EVERY FINANCIAL TRANSACTION BETWEEN ALL THE SHADOW PLAYERS HE NOW HUNTS.

AND THOSE DOCUMENTS WILL CONNECT THOUSANDS OF C.E.O.'S; POLITICIANS AND WORLD LEADERS TOGETHER INTO ONE STAGGERING CONSPIRACY AGAINST HUMANITY.



IT IS. HOW QUICK CAN YOU MOVE ON THIS? I COULD USE SOMETHING FAST!





I'LL GET
ON IT, BUT
IT MIGHT TAKE
A FEW DAYS
ONCE I
DOWNLOAD
THIS.



THAT'S
OKAY. I'LL
BE BUSY
TOO.



"I'M TRYING TO ARRANGE
A MEETING WITH
SOMEONE I KNOW."

THAT MEETING
TAKES TWO NIGHTS
TO OCCUR.



WELL, WELL,
WELL. WHAT
DO WE HAVE
HERE?

LET
ME GUESS?
YOU'RE PISSED
ABOUT...
'SOMETHING?'

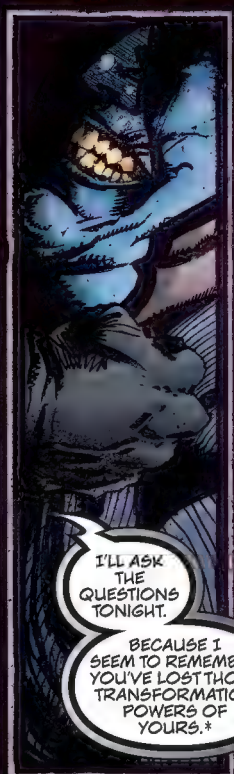


YEP.

I'M
SPOT
ON.



NOW,
WHAT'S
ON YOUR
MIND?



I'LL ASK
THE
QUESTIONS
TONIGHT.

BECAUSE I
SEEM TO REMEMBER
YOU'VE LOST THOSE
TRANSFORMATION
POWERS OF
YOURS.*



THIS ISN'T
ABOUT THAT
WHORE YOU
ONCE CALLED
YOUR WIFE,
IS IT?



I GUESS
IT IS.

YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHO SLAUGHTERED YOUR WIFE?
I'LL TELL YOU... IT'S ALL OF THEM.
EVERY DEMON AND ANGEL YOU'VE LOCKED
ON EARTH HAS A VENDETTA AGAINST YOU.
YOUR DEAR SWEET WANDA, SHE WAS
COLLATERAL DAMAGE. THEY DIDN'T CARE
ABOUT HER, BUT THEY KNEW YOU
DID. SHE WAS JUST BAIT... TO GET
YOU TO REACT.

AND YOU
HAVE, GIVEN
YOUR RECENT
ACTIVITIES.


WHO
ARE
THEY?



AND WHY
DOES YOUR FACE
MARKING LOOK
DIFFERENT?


HE SAID YOU
MIGHT ASK THAT
QUESTION.

AND WHEN
YOU DID, I'M
SUPPOSED TO
DELIVER THIS
MESSAGE!

A large, muscular figure with a red cape and a white chest strap is shown from the chest up, restrained by thick metal chains. The figure's face is partially obscured by shadows and the chains. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a hint of a cityscape.

FIGHT
IT ALL YOU
WANT.
IT'S NOT
COMING
OFF!


AS IF
SOMEONE'S
TRYING TO
SUCK OUT HIS
INSIDES,
SPAWN FEELS
HIS POWERS
BEGINNING TO
DRAIN.

A close-up of a character with a clown-like face, featuring a wide, toothy grin and blue skin. The character is holding a long, thin object, possibly a knife or a wand, and is looking towards the left. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a hint of a cityscape.

YOU STILL
DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
DO YOU?
AFTER ALL
THIS TIME.

A dynamic action shot showing the clown-like character attacking Spawn. The clown is in the foreground, lunging forward with a long, thin object (possibly a knife or a wand) raised high. Spawn is in the background, being hit by the object. The word "GLIT" is written in large, red, stylized letters. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a hint of a cityscape.

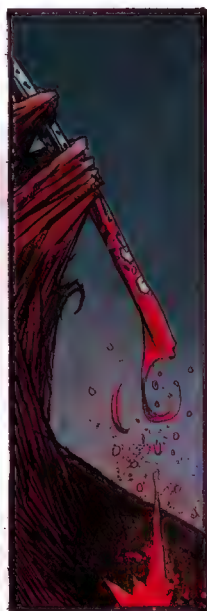
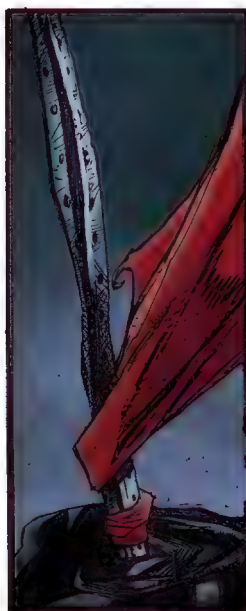
GLIT

A scene showing Spawn lying on the ground, seemingly defeated. The clown-like character is standing over him, looking down. The clown is holding a long, thin object (possibly a knife or a wand) and is looking towards the left. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a hint of a cityscape.

THEIR
POWERS WILL
TRUMP YOURS
EVERY TIME.
SO... YOU WANT
TO BRING ALL THIS INTO
THE OPEN? THEY SAID,
"BRING IT ON!" ME?
I'M JUST HOPING
YOU BLEED TO
DEATH.



IT'LL BE THREE HOURS BEFORE THERE'S ANY SIGN OF MOVEMENT. AND WHEN THERE IS, IT'LL BE THE COSTUME DOING IT, NOT OUR HERO.

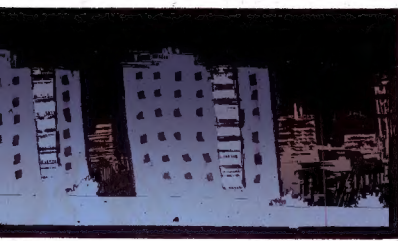


FUMP



EXCELLENT.

HE
TOOK THE
BAIT.



...AND TODAY'S
DRAMATIC MELTDOWN
OF ALL GLOBAL STOCK
MARKETS HAS CAUSED WIDE-
SPREAD PANIC BOTH DOMESTICALLY
AND ABROAD. THE CAUSE OF
SUCH HUGE DROPS SEEMS
TO BE A MYSTERY
FOR NOW...

STEP 1
COMPLETE

SPAWNING GROUND

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MONTHLY CONTEST

WIN a 10 minute Skype call with Todd McFarlane and some COOL McFarlane toys and comics!

Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

Enter that code word HERE:

mcFarlane.com/spawningground for your chance to win awesome prizes!

Spawn issue #290 Code Word: **SPAWNSARMYOFMONSTERS**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Thank you, as always, for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

Spawn continues to build a team made up of his former enemies, including Overt-Kill, Cy-Gor, and more. Could these members of his rogues gallery be his biggest allies?

"I KNOW EVERYBODY LIES IN BLURBS, BUT THIS COMIC REALLY IS AMAZING. DO NOT GLOSS OVER THESE WORDS. THIS IS TWO GUYS AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME."

—MARK MILLAR



FROM **NEW YORK TIMES** BESTSELLING,
EISNER AWARD-WINNING WRITER **JEFF LEMIRE**
& ARTIST **ANDREA SORRENTINO**

"If you were a fan of Jeff Lemire and Andrea Sorrentino's *Green Arrow* or *Old Man Logan*, which were instant classics in the eyes of many, then check out this original story."

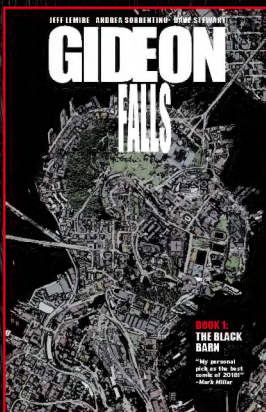
—IGN

"Sorrentino's art offers some visually complex layouts that I found to be quite compelling. Overall, I'm really enjoying this story and the mysterious complexities it brings."

—Impulse Gamer

"Jeff Lemire really knocks it out of the park with this comic. I highly recommend this one. Give it a read."

—Bleeding Cool



"It's a thriller, it's horror, it's literary, and it's also something truly unique."

—Newsarama

"Though Lemire is one of the busiest writers in the industry right now, the sheer volume, diversity, and high quality of his output is remarkable. He doesn't lose a step here nor does Sorrentino, who is composing here at peak level too... I left the experience of GIDEON FALLS more than ready to see how the mystery of this odd town plays out in the next chapter."

—The Comics Beat

"A pure vision of terror."

—Comic Book Resources

GIDEON FALLS, BOOK 1: THE BLACK BARN
IN TRADE PAPERBACK OCTOBER 2018



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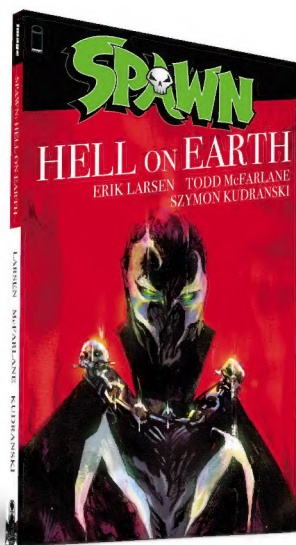


DEMON'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

Killed by his own men, Government Agent Al Simmons struck a deal with the devil, resurrecting him from the depths of hell. Returning to Earth he guards the forgotten alleys of New York City as the warrior Spawn, a hero unlike any other. Seeking answers about his past, Spawn grapples with the dark forces that returned him to earth, battling enemies and discovering unlikely allies.

Even though the doors of Heaven and Hell are now locked, there's enough evil on Earth to keep Spawn busy. But without his full powers, Spawn will have to find a way to fight his enemies without getting himself killed again in *Spawn: Hell on Earth*. Featuring the kinetic art and imaginative story-telling of Image Comics founders Todd McFarlane (*Spawn*, *Spider-Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*) and Erik Larsen (*Savage Dragon*, *Spider-Man*), as well as veteran *Spawn* artist Szymon Kudranski, this is one collection you don't want to miss!

The *Spawn: Hell on Earth* trade paperback collects 12 issues — a whole year's worth — of this fan-favorite story into one thick volume. All at a hard to beat price.



SPAWN: HELL ON EARTH
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